



December 2002

Important Health Benefits News for Benefits Administrators

Upcoming Events

DEC

Dec. 16 ♦ 2003 Flex enrollment agency reports distributed

Dec. 20 ♦ Online Annual Report to Employees developed

Dec. 31 ♦ Dependents who turned age 23 during 2002 automatically removed from health benefits coverage

JAN

Jan. 1 ♦ Happy New Year and Welcome 2003!

Jan. 1 ♦ 2003 Flexible Reimbursement Accounts and new Medicare retiree premiums go into effect

Jan. 8 ♦ General Assembly convenes for 6-week session



Published by the Office of Health Benefits,
Virginia Department of Human Resource
Management

B.A. Bulletin

Trigon is Now Anthem

Trigon officially became Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield on December 2, 2002. Anthem's Web address is www.anthem.com. There is a direct link to the Commonwealth of Virginia-specific site from the Health Benefits front page on the DHRM Web site at www.dhrm.state.va.us/hbenefit.htm. Employees may also continue to use the <http://state.trigon.com> Web address for the time being.

To visit the Commonwealth of Virginia page directly on the Anthem Web site, employees should click on www.anthem.com, select Members and Consumers, then Virginia. The next step is to click on the link called "Commonwealth of Virginia and the Local Choice Members" on that page.

State employees will receive ID cards with the Anthem logo in June, for a July 1, 2003 effective date. ID cards with the Trigon logo are valid indefinitely.

Steady Increase in Use of EmployeeDirect

EmployeeDirect has become increasingly popular for making health benefit changes. Usage more than doubled for fall annual Flex enrollment over spring Open Enrollment. During Flex enrollment, 42% of changes were made in EmployeeDirect compared to 17% in the spring. Total Flex Enrollment was 5,798, with 2,434 done in EmployeeDirect. Twenty-eight agencies used EmployeeDirect entirely for Flex enrollment, and 37 agencies had more than 80% of enrollment done through EmployeeDirect.

CommonHealth Arranges Fitness Center Discounts

State employees can keep in shape and perhaps receive a discount at their local fitness center thanks to CommonHealth! The state wellness program has made arrangements with a number of fitness centers throughout Virginia to allow all state employees to establish membership and pay a corporate rate.

Each fitness center has its own terms for membership and discounts. State employees must identify themselves as working for the Commonwealth to qualify for the corporate rate. For a list of participating fitness centers, go to the Fitness Center Discounts tab on the CommonHealth Web site at www.chp-online.com/commonhealth.

Aetna U.S. Healthcare To Leave Program in July

The Aetna POS and HMO plans will no longer be available to state employees effective July 1, 2003. Aetna has notified the Commonwealth of its intent to leave the program. Employees enrolled in these plans will be able to change to another plan during spring Open Enrollment.

Health Benefits Policy for Layoff and Severance

Individual sheets that provide health benefits policies for 11 categories of layoff and/or severance will be sent soon to Benefits Administrators. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Health Benefits at this e-mail address: hbp@dhrm.state.va.us. We are also working on instructions that in addition to health benefits procedures, include actions to take with respect to Human Resources, the Department of Accounts and the Virginia Retirement System.